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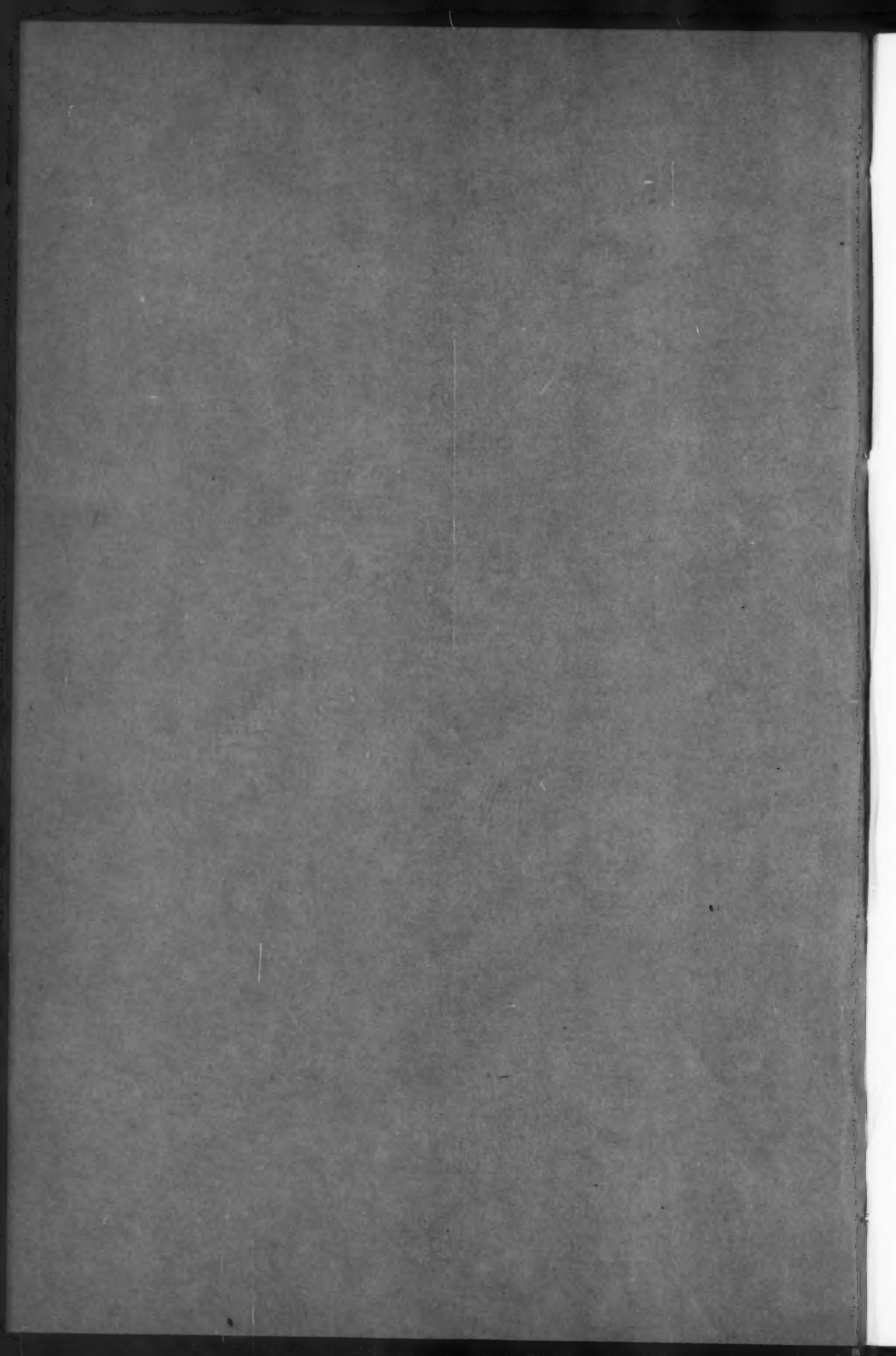
# L. R. B. & M. JOURNAL

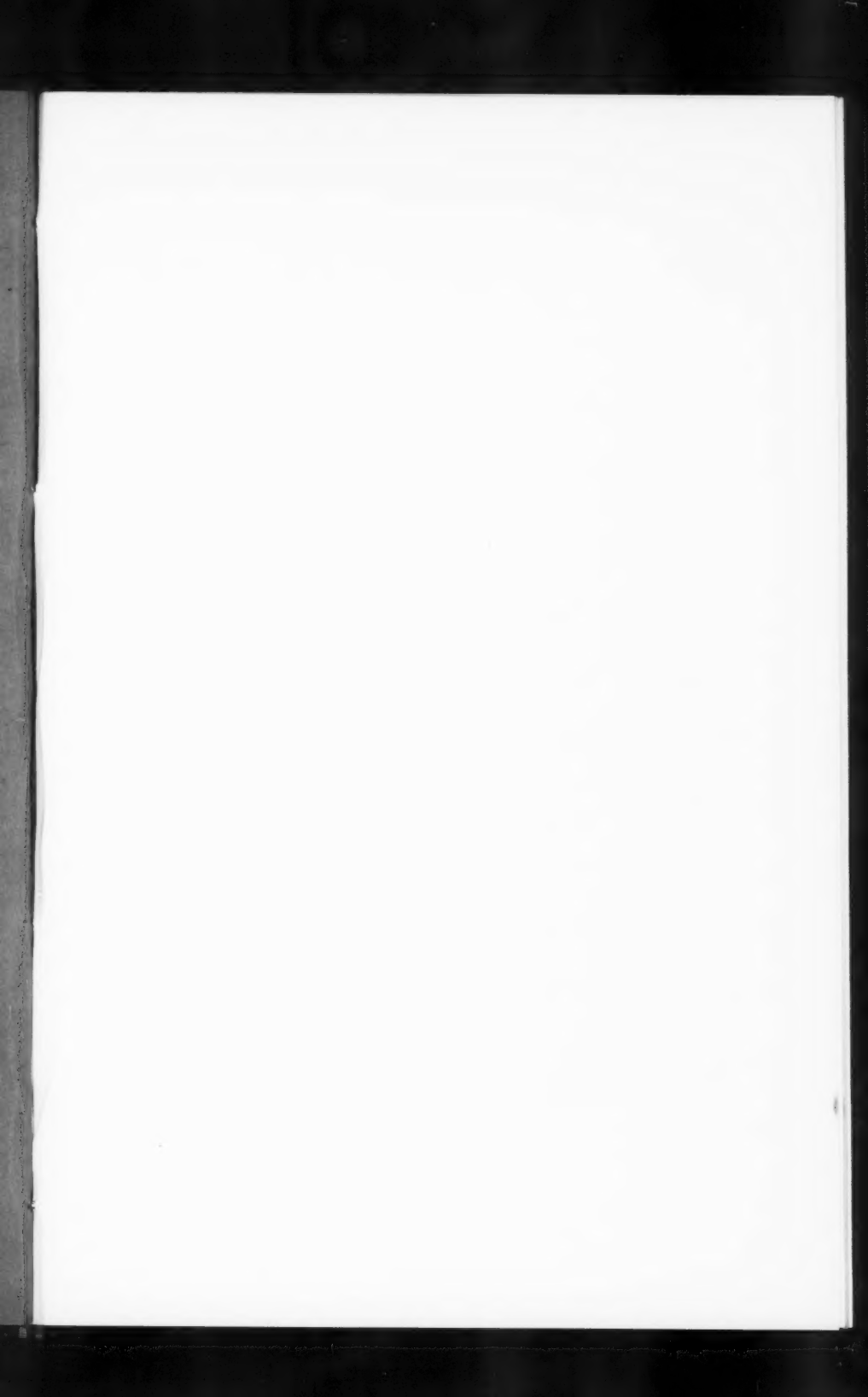
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**Adolph Karl Fischer**

1890-1946

*Published by*  
**LYBRAND, ROSS BROS. & MONTGOMERY**  
*Accountants and Auditors*





Dedicated to the Memory of

Adolph Karl Fischer

A Member of the Firm of

Lybrand, Ross Bros. & Montgomery



ADOLPH KARL FISCHER



# L. R. B. & M. JOURNAL

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## A. Karl Fischer

Adolph Karl Fischer was born in Philadelphia, November 25, 1890. He graduated from the public schools of Philadelphia and the Episcopal Academy of that city. His first employment was with the Pennsylvania Railroad in clerical positions during summer vacations, and in 1908 he entered the employ of our Philadelphia office. He was a member of the staff of that office continuously from 1908 to 1930, when he became a partner in the firm, except for two years during World War I, six months of that period being spent overseas. While serving as a Second Lieutenant in the 360th Infantry, he was severely wounded at St. Mihiel and spent ten months in hospitals in France and this country, returning to the Philadelphia office in July, 1919.

Notwithstanding his age and the physical handicap resulting from his wounds, he endeavored to enter the flying service in World War II. Disappointed in this, he engaged in service in the Civil Air Patrol and was a civilian instructor of Army and Navy Personnel in the operation of airplanes and gliders at various points in the South and Southwest. Later, he served with the Rubber Reserve Corporation as an advisor upon accounting matters.

During the more than thirty-five

years he was associated with the Philadelphia office, he acquired an exceptional experience in accounting, his activities taking him into banking, brokerage, insurance, mining, public utility, industrial, and commercial work, as well as special financing and investigations.

Mr. Fischer was a member of the American Institute of Accountants; had served as a member of its Council and held important committee memberships; was a past President of the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants and a member of the National Association of Cost Accountants. His interest in civic affairs found an outlet in connection with the welfare campaigns in Philadelphia, to which he contributed his services as Chairman of the Audit Committee for a number of years. In his home community, Beverly, New Jersey, he served for a time on the City Council and also on the vestry of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. He was a Mason and a member of a number of clubs and organizations, including the Union League of Philadelphia, The Meridian Club, and the Gibson Island Yacht Club.

An outdoor enthusiast, he engaged in many recreational activities. During his later years his principal interests were golf, sailing

his racing yacht and piloting his plane.

His passing at the early age of 56 is tragic, not only to his family but to our firm as well. We shall sorely miss him and the benefit of his vast professional experience.

Services were held at his home in Beverly, New Jersey, and were attended by the family, members of our firm and staff, and many friends. Interment with military honors was in the United States National Cemetery near Beverly, New Jersey.





## Appreciation of A. Karl Fischer by his Partners in Philadelphia

We are again called upon to mourn the death of one with whom we have long been associated. It is nearly thirty-eight years since Karl entered the employ of our firm. He came to us with a high recommendation from the headmaster of his preparatory school, who stated he was of the type who could be depended on to make good in any line of work which he undertook.

In the years which followed Karl justified the judgment of his headmaster. He began at the foot of the ladder and by conscientious and diligent effort he achieved recognition as a master in his profession.

Karl was a man of independent thought and was not one who fitted easily into a particular groove. He always gave careful and painstaking consideration to any problem with which he had to deal and did not rest until it was solved to his satisfaction.

The esteem in which he was held by members of the profession is evidenced by his election to important offices in both the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of Accountants. His interest in civic welfare found an outlet in his active cooperation in community campaigns and other public organizations.

Karl was a man of action. In

World War I he gave of his best to his country. When hostilities began in the second war he made every effort to re-enter the service, and, failing in this, he first undertook coast patrol in his own plane, and later participated in the training of recruits in the art of flying gliders.

And at his final resting-place, as the sound of the firing over his grave ceased and the notes of the bugle died away, it seemed a fitting close to the earthly life of this restless and adventurous spirit.

T. EDWARD ROSS.

Once more we are called upon to pay final tribute to a member of our firm.

Passing through Doylestown a few days prior to Karl's accident I spoke of him, of his wonderful record as an instructor during the recent World War, and that he was at present acting as an instructor at a field in the vicinity. Knowing the danger to which he was so constantly exposed, I had great fear for his safety. Just four days later I learned with sincere regret of his tragic death.

Karl became associated with our firm upon his graduation from Episcopal Academy in 1908. His work covered many fields, he was a hard worker and was known and respected

by all for his ability and keenness of mind.

During World War I he was in active service, was seriously wounded in France and never recovered entirely from this injury.

During World War II he again offered his services and while not in active service he gave fully of his time and efforts.

He was vitally interested in the welfare and advancement of the firm and his loss will be keenly felt by all who knew him.

JOSEPH M. PUGH.

I had been on the staff of the Philadelphia office less than a year when Karl Fischer was employed in 1908, and over the years have had perhaps as close contact with him, as a staff member and later as his partner, as did anyone at the Philadelphia office.

Karl had unbounded energy, and if he could not work it off on the work upon which he was engaged, went to great lengths to find something to do in his leisure hours which would ordinarily exhaust the average person, both mentally and physically, but which never appeared to have any effect upon his professional activities.

He had a keen inquiring mind, and research was a pleasure to him. He always was happiest when confronted with a question which required a lot of thinking and research, and was most generous with his time and talents, giving unstint-

ingly of them to his associates. He will be sorely missed in our organization. His passing leaves an emptiness which will long continue in the hearts of his associates and a host of friends. I was very fond of Karl and shall always miss him.

JOHN HOOD, JR.

On April 6, 1917, when the United States declared war upon Germany and her allies, I was working with Karl Fischer. We were sitting on a bench on one of Philadelphia's open Squares during our lunch hour when we heard that war was declared. From that moment there was never a question in my mind as to what Karl's course of action would be; he enlisted immediately, as I knew he would.

In July, 1919, I was sent to a neighboring city to pinch-hit for him upon an engagement he was to take over as soon as he had recovered sufficiently from the effect of a German shell that had shattered his leg. After he was able to resume his duties, we worked together for nearly three months, and I have never been associated with anyone who was more companionable, notwithstanding that our temperaments were almost diametrically opposed. I shall always remember that summer as one of the most pleasant I have ever spent.

I do not believe that Karl knew the meaning of the word "fear." He loved to live dangerously. While his death was a great shock to all of us,

it did not come as a surprise. He was daring and intrepid, and adventurous in both mind and spirit. The possessor of a very keen intellect, and untiring in his efforts to master fully any undertaking, whether work or sport, he at times had an approach of childlike simplicity that was most baffling. Without doubt, his personality was such that he will never be forgotten by anyone who was ever associated with him.

GEORGE R. DRABENSTADT.

In the tragic death of A. Karl Fischer, I have lost a very good friend whom I have known and worked with for the past thirty years. One of my earliest recollections of working with Karl concerns an engagement about 1918 at Lynchburg, Virginia, when he took me along as a junior. After we worked diligently all day and well into the night, Karl decided at about eleven o'clock to write a letter to the firm about the progress of the work, and, although I did not profess to be a stenographer, he insisted that I take dictation from him in shorthand and then type it. Unfortunately for me, after he finished dictating I could not transcribe my notes and he then and there told me plenty; in fact, I can still remember his telling me what he thought of me as a stenographer. It was not complimentary.

Karl was a true friend and could be depended upon for help in time

of trouble. When he worked, he worked hard; and when he played, he put everything he had into the game. During my earlier years with the firm I often had occasion to be on the same engagement with Karl and, while we were not always in agreement, we always got along well together and it was a pleasure to be associated with him. In his passing, the firm has lost an excellent accountant and partner, and we shall all miss him.

CLARENCE R. HAAS.

My association with Karl covers 27 of the 38 years he was with the firm. During that period I marveled at his ability to handle any assignment, whether it be banking, brokerage, insurance, public utility, municipal or industrial. I admired the courage he displayed during the early days of the last war when he participated in the coastal air patrol which sought out lurking submarines. Karl was a firm believer in showmanship but was not one to flaunt his own achievements. I am told that he was interested in boxing in his younger days and I think he applied to his auditing activities the same principles that he applied in the ring—find a weak spot and hit it hard.

Karl's sudden passing is a distinct loss to the firm and I know we will all remember him for a long time.

HARRY H. STEINMEYER.

When I was informed of Karl Fischer's tragic death I could hardly believe the news. It did not seem possible that such a sudden ending could come to one who had become so interested in flying that he was really a part of it, and it a part of him. Only ten days before I had driven him from Bedford Springs, Pa., where we had attended the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants, to Somerset, Pa., from where he expected to fly his plane on the return trip to Philadelphia. The weather was abominable, the mountains and lowlands of western Pennsylvania being entirely obscured from the air in impenetrable fog as the result of several days of very bad weather. Naturally, since it was late afternoon, Karl did not start his homeward trip that day. The following day, when I returned to Philadelphia by automobile, the weather was even worse, and I was certain that Karl would be stranded for several days. Imagine my surprise upon finding him at his desk the following day to learn that he had actually flown across most of Pennsylvania through such weather. It did not seem humanly possible to perform such a feat, but that was Karl. He was always doing the unexpected and apparently impossible things.

I had known and worked with him for nearly thirty years. His ability as an accountant was almost uncanny and he also managed to

get the best out of those who worked with him. That, of course, was a mutually beneficial trait of his. Those who knew him will miss him greatly and always remember him.

CARL H. ZIPF.

I knew Karl for about twenty-five years. While it may sound trite to say that there was but one A. Karl Fischer, to those who knew him that statement has real significance. Karl was cast from no common, ordinary mold. The placid, humdrum routine of life held no appeal to him, for he was ever the adventurer. Karl has left much for our reminiscences; we won't forget him.

Whether it was in his work with the firm, in Institute matters, or in his many hobbies, Karl always was intensely interested, always sought the fundamentals, always was impatient with superficialities. He had an auditing sense that was second to none. A dog with a bone was an aimless trifler compared to Karl with an accounting problem.

There is a great deal that could be written about Karl Fischer, he had so many interesting qualities. At times he might be quite gruff, again he would be completely absorbed in his own thoughts, at still other times he was an ingenuous fellow and a most pleasant companion. Over the many years I knew him I had ample proof that he was more than ready to be helpful to others; he was certainly a great help to me. I was very, very

fond of Karl Fischer and I miss him very much.

GEORGE A. HEWITT.

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The sudden passing of Karl Fischer came as a shock to all of us who had had close contact with him. I first met Karl in 1919 when he returned from World War I, and I was assigned to work for him on various occasions. The intensiveness with which he attacked a problem was interesting to observe and his accounting knowledge was well recognized.

From first to last, Karl was a fighter and whether it was an accounting matter to be argued or a

war to be fought, he wanted to be in the thick of it and throw all his energy into the fray. Probably one of his great disappointments was the fact that the War Department refused to allow him to fly a fighter plane in World War II. Consequently, he was forced to confine his activities to flying on the coast patrol, giving flying instructions to younger men and any other tasks which would allow him to participate physically in the conduct of the war.

Karl will long be remembered by his friends and associates for his accounting ability and his strong fighting spirit.

PRICE G. RIGHTER.



## Resolution Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Community Chest of Philadelphia and Vicinity

*Whereas*, there has come to the attention of the Board of Directors of the Community Chest of Philadelphia and Vicinity the sudden and untimely death of Mr. A. Karl Fischer, Campaign Audit Chairman for several years, and

*Whereas*, Mr. Fischer's term of service with the Community Chest has been characterized by an unswerving loyalty and devotion to the cause for which he gave unstintingly of his expert professional knowledge and experience, and

*Whereas*, as a faithful volunteer Community Chest worker, he gave, through the all-too-few years of his

service, many evidences of a nobility of character and other personal characteristics which endeared him to his fellow-workers, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Community Chest, by unanimous approval, cause to be spread upon the minutes of the Board this record of their sincere regret that he has passed from among us, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of these minutes be forwarded to his family, to whom we wish to express our profound sympathy, and to the firm of Lybrand, Ross Bros. & Montgomery.

## Letter Received from the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Officers and Council Members of the Pennsylvania Institute learned with profound sorrow that A. Karl Fischer was killed in an aeroplane crash at Doylestown, Pennsylvania, on June 29th.

Please accept our most sincere sympathy and regret on the death of such an indispensable member of your firm, and convey, if you will, to the members of Mr. Fischer's

family our heartfelt sorrow.

Karl was liked by everyone and has contributed very substantially to the success of our accounting profession. His able advice and pleasing personality certainly will be missed.

We are sorry to lose this splendid gentleman from our ranks. He made a name for himself that will long be remembered.

## A Tribute from The Correspondence Department of the Philadelphia Office

We of the Correspondence Department of the Philadelphia office would like to add our tribute to the memory of Mr. Fischer. We feel that working with him we knew him a little more intimately than some others of the office. We knew him when he was happy and we knew him when he was feeling "blue." Our working with him let us see the unusual side of his disposition.

Mr. Fischer was a man who used to the full all the talents he possessed, not only for his own betterment but also for his associates. He was always so willing to be of service and no task was too difficult for him to tackle—in fact, the more

difficult the more he enjoyed following it through to a successful conclusion. We desire not only to join the host of those who valued his work and appreciated him but to express our sincere regret in his passing. He had marked individuality and personality and we can understand what a loss he will be to the firm.

We consider it a privilege to have had the opportunity of working for him, and we do miss his: "Busy Miss ..... please take a letter."

MADELINE C. MOESINGER,  
MARGARET J. COCHRAN,  
BETTY A. KEPNER.



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## The L. R. B. & M. Journal

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Published by Lybrand, Ross Bros. & Montgomery, for free distribution to members  
and employees of the firm.

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The purpose of this journal is to communicate to every member of the staff and office plans and accomplishments of the firm; to provide a medium for the exchange of suggestions and ideas for improvement; to encourage and maintain a proper spirit of cooperation and interest, and to help in the solution of common problems.

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### EUROPE

VICTOR L. NORRIS      LEONARD C. DAVID

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## Tributes from Friends

The letters reproduced here are representative of the many received from clients and others, attesting to the high regard in which Mr. Fischer was held by all with whom he came in contact.

*From Mr. John A. Stevenson, President of The Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company, to the Firm:*

I have just received your announcement about the death of Mr. A. Karl Fischer. For many years he did an outstanding job for the Penn Mutual and all of those with whom he came in contact had an exceedingly high regard for him. We send our sincerest sympathy to his associates at Lybrand, Ross Bros. & Montgomery. We, too, will miss him very much.

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*From Mr. A. Atwater Kent, President and Treasurer of Atwater Kent Manufacturing Company, to Mr. Ross:*

It was a great shock to me to hear of the sudden death of your associate, Mr. A. Karl Fischer. Having known and worked with Mr. Fischer for over twenty years I realize what a great loss you and your organization has sustained.

During the years he handled our work we came to rely and depend on his judgment and counsel. We, too, are going to miss him greatly.

*From Mr. Leonard T. Ashton, Vice President and Secretary of the Provident Mutual Life Insurance Company of Philadelphia, to Mr. Ross:*

It was a real shock to read in yesterday's paper of the accident in which Karl Fischer lost his life. I know it must be a blow to you and the other members of your firm. We will miss his friendly and helpful discussions in connection with your firm's auditing of our accounts.

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*From Mr. Robert W. Williams, of Messrs. Price, Waterhouse & Co., to the Firm:*

On my own behalf and for all of my partners I wish to express my sorrow in the tragic and untimely death of Karl Fischer. He and I discussed mutual business matters on many occasions and appeared together in discussion group panels since my coming to this city. I enjoyed meeting and talking with him and deeply regret his passing.

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*From P. Blair Lee, President of The Western Saving Fund Society of Philadelphia, to the Firm:*

Permit me to express my deep sympathy to you in connection with the death of your partner, Mr. A. Karl Fischer.

I had the privilege of knowing Mr. Fischer for many years and held him in the highest regard.

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*From Messrs. Haskins & Sells, to the Firm:*

Please accept our sincere sympathy in the death of your Mr. Fischer. We of the Philadelphia Office of Haskins & Sells, as well as all who knew him, realize that his passing is a great loss to your firm as well as to the accounting profession.

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*From Mr. John N. Aitken, of Messrs. Mathieson, Aitken & Co., to Mr. Hood:*

I wish to extend my sincere sympathies to you and your associates

on the tragic death of Karl Fischer. We of the profession are in his debt in that he contributed much to its advancement during the years in which he was such an active member of the Institute.

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*From Mr. Henry D. Schmidt, President of Schmidt & Ault Paper Co., to the Firm:*

It is with a sudden shock that we learn, through your announcement, of the death of your partner and our great friend and advisor, Karl Fischer, so that we hasten to extend to his associates our deepest condolences.

After the many, many years that he has supervised our accounts, we will certainly miss him.



# Lybrand, Ross Bros. & Montgomery

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